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KEYSTONE NOTES

EIGHT

On the Fly's Trail

Because California is most susceptible to its ravages, because it would affect California's principal industry, the Mediterranean Fruit Fly menace has put fear into the hearts of agricultural interests in the State. Terrible is the prospect of ruination among California crops should the fly once get a foothold.

Not long were agricultural departments inactive, nor growers lax, when once the warning was sounded. At the first warning, extensive inspection and precautions were inaugurated. States borders were jealously guarded, incoming fruit examined, the fly invasion repulsed for the time being.

Nor did California stop at this point. Lately University of California Professor H. J. Quayle was authorized by the United States Quarantine Board to investigate the habits and life history of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly in yacht. Quayle will sail the Mediterranean, visit the countries around it, make experiments in the yacht's laboratories.

Said the United States Department of Agriculture: "Quayle is the obvious man" to make such a study.

At Riverside, Quayle had been professor of entomology at the Citrus Experiment Station.

Fly Habits

Injury by the Mediterranean fly is confined only to fruits; foliage, stems and roots are not affected. The female fly bores through the skin of the fruit, lays eggs; the punctures cannot be seen by the naked eye. The eggs hatch into whitish larvae which feed on the pulp of the fruit, causing immediate decay. Finally leaving the fruit, they seek shelter on the ground and change through stages into a full-grown fly whose life lasts from two to four months. Females lay eggs every day, causing a phenomenal reproduction.

Climate

Temperature greatly influences fruit fly development. Southern California compares closely to southern Spain in climate. To determine what damage the fly could do if it located here, a knowledge of the fly's activities in Spain is helpful. There fruit growers continue to raise crops in spite of the fly. Oranges are not infested during April and May. But by August, such fruit as remains on the trees is badly eaten by the growing larvae. The fly has been reported as being inactive in Spain during the winter and not becoming active before June. Thus fruits which mature between November and June escape injury. And as oranges in Spain are of the variety which are picked before July, it is therefore seen why Spanish fruit is not overly troubled by the pest. There are no commercial oranges on the trees during the greatest fly activity.

Although Spain's climate is somewhat similar to California's, the crop situation is different. California Navel and grapefruit crops parallel closely the orange crop of Spain (in season from November to June). But the California Valencia season falls during the months of greatest fly activity, June to October. The peach and the prune and other deciduous fruits (not immune) also mature in this season; and these are of vast commercial importance. Therefore, were the fly to become established in Southern California it would kill great acreages of fully matured citrus and deciduous fruits during the season of its greatest activity. Reason: The fly and the fruit come into maturity at the same time.

Lemons, say Italian entomologists, are immune to the fly. Prof. Quayle of the University of California supports this view also. The only lemons where fly larvae were found were decayed.

Says Entomologist Woglum: "Eradication is California's watchword. We should think of the fly in no other terms but eradication, should the pest become established here. The burden of adding treatment for another pest drops into insignificance compared with the value of keeping this new pest out."

California's need only to remember Florida's dilemma to realize the truth of Woglum's statement. Woglum, as head of the Pest Control Bureau of California Fruit Growers Exchange, suggests that a permanent fruit fly department be maintained by the State, for although the danger of conglomeration from Florida may be eradicated, California is in perpetual danger of fly invasion from nearby Hawaii. The Director of Agriculture, not slow to take up Woglum's suggestion, has started such a department.

Catalina Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kelso, their daughter June and son George of 260th street are vacationing in San

NEWS REVIEW SECTION



ment. To facilitate immediate discovery of the pest's location here will be its primary aim.

Detection

Softness of the fruit, and bleeding of the fruit under slight pressure at puncture holes made by the larvae are two symptoms of the fly's presence in grapefruit. Under these circumstances fruit is seldom decayed, but decay will follow quickly upon its drop to the ground. In the case of unexplained drop the grower should look for holes in dropped fruit yet undecayed. In picking, if the fruit falls with a gentle pull, it should be squeezed to locate possible holes. If there are holes, the fruit should be cut and examined. Slight hardening and browning of the skin around the holes are other indications.

Orange infestation has been harder to detect. This due to the light infestation of the sweet orange and only a slight tendency to bleed in the sour oranges. Free use of the knife is the only certain method of detection.

The larvae of the fly, which is the part found in the fruit, are slender and pale colored or whitish, stout behind, tapering strongly toward the head end; not over one-third inch long. The posterior ends show three narrow openings. Many other flies and fly larvae confused by growers with the Mediterranean type are described in detail in the July issue of the California Fruit Growers Exchange Bulletin on Citrus Insect Control.

Control

In Florida, destruction of all infested mature host fruits and vegetables, followed by repeated spraying with arsenical poison to destroy the adult flies, has been the method of control, and in Australia and South Africa these methods have been in use. Successful where timely, continuous effort is made, this method is extremely and usually requires community action. The spray now recommended is different from the former mixture. It consists of four pounds molasses, four or five ounces of arsenate of lead, juice of one dozen ripe oranges and water sufficient to make four gallons of mixture altogether. One gallon sprays eighty trees. The spray destroys the adults only. All infested fruit should be picked and destroyed. Traps with attractant bait are also used.

Baby Limas

Although somewhat late, San Fernando Valley's baby lima-bean crop promises to be a bumper one. Van Nuys and Owensmouth bean growers associations are advising warehouses in the vicinity of Reseda, and at North Los Angeles, to repair machinery in preparation for handling an output of approximately 12,000 acres.

Prune Prices

Prune prices for the 1929 crop last fortnight were double those of last year, and three times those of the year before. The Federal State Marketing Service reported the market intensely active and quotations on an upward trend.

Cotton Good

On the increase, but with the condition now at eighty-six per cent of normal, California cotton production this season will total 223,000 bales. This crop forecast was made by E. E. Kaufman, agricultural statistician, and R. E. Blair, cotton statistician of the Federal Crop Reporting Service.

touch last year's figure, say reports. California should yield fairly. Last year's crop was said to have been a failure.
Walnut production gained 500 tons over July 1 and is expected to reach 41,000 tons, almost 17,000 more than last year. Almonds are up 1000 from a month ago. Growers are looking for a 5000-ton yield, only 37 per cent of the 1928 yield of 13,700 tons. Crops were exceptionally light in the major part of Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.
Prunes are soaring in price, and Sacramento, San Joaquin, Tulare, Santa Clara, and other district growers are cashing in on a heavy drop which high June temperatures brought. Expected to reach 122,000 tons, the crop will net more money than the heavy 225,000-ton crop produced last year.

barley, topping its five-year average for a 25.5 bushels per acre yield, will run to 27,824,000 bushels; rice, improved in condition will be offered to the amount of 4,902,000 bushels, or 2,100,000 bags. Lima beans, headed for a new high record, should yield 2,400,000 bushels, despite hot weather and other beans are forecast at 2,678,000 bushels. Sweet potatoes should crop 1,100,000 bushels and potatoes, curtailed severely as to acreage will run to 5,023,000 bushels with every indication of recouping losses experienced by growers last year.

The sugar beet yield should be 437,000 tons, slightly more than two-thirds of 1928 production; cotton as previously announced, should yield 223,000 bales or 335 pounds per acre, and the grain sorghum outlook is 3,395,000 bushels.

All tame hay now is forecast at 5,056,000 tons and grain hay at 949,000 tons, while alfalfa will run to 3,895,000 tons, about 500,000 pounds under the harvest of last season.

Milk vs. Cream

Ice cream makers of California—some of them—have been substituting ice milk for ice cream.

Director G. H. Hecke of the State Department of Agriculture at Sacramento declares he will prosecute them vigorously. Dr. M. E. MacDonald of the State Bureau of Dairy Control, says ice milk looks and tastes like ice cream, but contains much less butter fat. Butter fat is the expensive ingredient in ice cream.

Dealers who sell ice milk must not allow people to think it is ice cream or prosecution will result, according to Hecke's plan.

RAVAGES OF MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY

ABOVE—Grapefruit showing holes in the rind, characteristic of infestation by the fruit fly in Florida. Such holes made by larvae working near the surface, or by maturing larvae leaving the fruit, are frequently enlargements of punctures made by ovipositing females. LOWER—Orange infested with larvae. Note discoloration of peel, spongy appearance of injury and nature of injury to pulp and peel.

The crop comes from 315,000 acres of land in Riverside and Imperial valleys, San Joaquin and Sacramento.

Delay in growth was caused in most sections this year by a cool and shady spring. Reports of heat shedding in early June affected the crops in places, but not generally. California cotton is generally free from worm damage, although Lower California and Mexico yields have been affected by it.

Crop Forecasts

Past pessimism and over-production menaces were wiped away and the agriculturalists' happy dream of Arcady brought to the zenith of realization last week. From Sacramento came the report of E. E. Kaufman, Federal State statistician, that there is no doubt on the face of conditions that every principal product of California will net handsome revenues this season. Cleared is the way for the greatest agricultural season on record in 1929.

As surveyed by Mr. Kaufman, yields will be materially better than appeared possible a month ago. The peach crop indication is up 4000 to 303,000; clingstones forecasted at 162,000, and freestones at 141,000. Pears will yield 1000 tons in excess of July 1, or 173,000 tons. All but 23,000 of these are Bartletts.

The bumper tree yield of the year is apricots, are forecast at 184,000 tons, despite a smaller size than usual and loss due to rot at maturity.

Fig growers face the happy prospect of good financial remuneration. Fig conditions last week were 80 per cent of normal. Adiratics and Mission varieties will

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